

## ***Scrophularia cryptophila* (Scrophulariaceae) from Istanbul and Lady Lister**

## **İstanbul kökenli *Scrophularia cryptophila* (Scrophulariaceae) ve Lady Lister**

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### **Abstract**

*Scrophularia cryptophila* Boiss. and Heldr. (Scrophulariaceae) was recorded from the vicinity of Istanbul in northwest Turkey almost 200 years ago. Notes on the geographical distribution of the species and the identity of the collector from Istanbul (Lady Lister) are provided.

**Keywords:** Istanbul, Lady Lister, Lady Liston, *Scrophularia*, Turkey.

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### **Introduction**

In the account of *Scrophularia* in *Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands* (Mill and Lall 1978), *S. cryptophila* Boiss. and Heldr. is stated to occur in the vilayets of Muğla, Antalya and Adana in the south, Izmir in the west, and Konya, Eskişehir and Ankara in adjacent central. The indefatigable female botanist Dr Friederike Sorger collected it in the mountains west of Beyşehir Lake in the vilayet of Isparta (Sorger, 1978). A single record was cited from the vilayet of Istanbul in northwest Turkey, based on a specimen seen by Mill and Lall (1978). Together with the specimen citation "A2 (E) Istanbul: near Istanbul, *Lady Lister!*" was the comment that the authors doubted the locality as it was disjunct from the other known sites.

### **Results and Discussion**

On checking material of this species kept at the University of Istanbul (herb. ISTE), we found only two specimens, both from the vilayet of Aydın: Çine, Gökbel Da., which had been collected by Turhan Uslu on 26 September 1977. Aydın is thus a new vilayet record for the species. There were no specimens from the vicinity of Istanbul although the area is botanically well known. We had hoped for confirmation that it had once existed in Istanbul or in northwest Turkey. Besides inhabiting shady rock ledges and limestone cliffs, *S. cryptophila* is stated to

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favour waste places and ruins, so there are some possibilities. However, we do not expect a present-day search to be successful, as nearly two hundred years have passed since that first discovery.

The specimen from Istanbul was cited as collected by a Lady Lister. Ladies, in the early 1800s, do not travel around Turkey by themselves, collecting plants. So, who was Lady Lister and what was her connection with Turkish botany?

In *Index Herbariorum Collectors Index* (Chaudhri et al. 1972) twelve Lister-s are listed. None represent Lady Lister, but a Lady Liston was mentioned (see p. 451). In the *Dictionary of British and Irish Botanists and Horticulturists* compiled by Ray Desmond (1977), seven Lister-s are included and one Lady Liston who died in 1828. She was Lady Henrietta Liston (née Marchant), married to Sir Robert Liston, British Ambassador based at Constantinople during the years 1812 to 1821. A brief entry under Marriages in *Scots Magazine* (vol. 58, no. 2, page 143) reads:

27 [th February 1796]. At Glasgow, his excellency Robert Liston (Ambassador to the Sublime Porte) to Miss Henrietta Marchant, daughter of the deceased Nathaniel Marchant Esq., of the island of Jamaica.

Lady Henrietta collected plants, deposited at BASSA (the herbarium of the Museum Biblioteca. Archivio-Bassano del Grappa, Vicenza, Italy), and K, and seeds in Turkey which were later given to Sir Joseph Banks, de Candolle and de Visiani. This was mentioned in *Curtis' Botanical Magazine* 48: tab. 2253 (1821) and Visiani's *Egregria coltivatrice della botanica*. She was thus responsible for bringing seeds of several rare and at that time new plants for introduction in Britain and Europe. For example, it was recorded that she sent seed of *Digitalis orientalis* Lam. (now *D. lamarckii* Ivan.) from Constantinople to Sir Joseph Banks and plants raised from this seed flowered in Lady Banks' garden at Spring Grove, England. *D. lamarckii* was first discovered by Tournefort during his travels in the Levant and it occurs in northwest Turkey. Roberto de Visiani (1800-1878), Italian physician and professor of botany at Padua named *Sedum listoniae* Vis. after her. This taxon was published in *Mem. Inst. Veneto Sci. Lett.* 1: 21 (1841). The name was, however, relegated to synonymy by Chamberlain (1972) who considered the plant only a large form of *Sedum obtusifolium* C.A. Meyer (1831).

Had Lady Liston been erroneously cited as Lady Lister in the *Flora of Turkey*? We believe so.

In *Flora Orientalis* 5: 66 (1882) Boissier provides a distribution record for *Orchis angustifolia* Bieb. "*Byzantium* (D<sup>a</sup> Liston)". The latter is a synonym of *Dactylorhiza iberica* (Bieb. ex Willd.) Soó and the record for *O. angustifolia* was thus included with the specimen citations for *D. iberica* in *Flora of Turkey* 8: 537 (1984): A2(E) Istanbul: Istanbul, *Lady Lister*. From this we can conclude that Lady Lister and Lady Liston are one and the same person. The earlier publications of 1872, 1882 and 1970... correctly provided the name Liston, but the handwriting was misinterpreted as Lister in the later volumes of *Flora of Turkey*. To bear out our conclusion, the original specimens of *Scrophularia cryptophila* and *Orchis angustifolia* deposited at Kew were examined. The former bore the inscription "Constantinople, Lady Liston" and the stamp "Herbarium Hookerianum 1867", and the latter, "Constantinople, Lady Liston in Hb. Hooker".

Had the *Flora of Turkey* been available in an electronic format, it would be relatively easy to search for other instances of the name Lister or Liston. During the 7<sup>th</sup> Plant Life of SW Asia Symposium held in 2007 at Eskişehir, we are informed that such a project is envisaged. We wish the undertaking every success.

Lady Liston's specimens and taxa named after her, cited in *Flora of Turkey* and *Flora Orientalis* are here provided:

Flora of Turkey 1: 119 (1965) *Delphinium venulosum* Boiss.

B3 Eskişehir: Eskişehir, 1825, *Liston!*

Flora of Turkey 3:76 (1970) *Astragalus listoniae* Boiss.

Type: [Turkey B4 Ankara] ad rivulos in parte superiori montis Elmadag (above Ankara) Anatoliae, *Liston* 16 (holo, K!).

Flora of Turkey 3:586 (1970) *Onobrychis hypargyrea* Boiss.

A2 Istanbul: Istanbul, *Liston*.

Flora of Turkey 4: 228 (1972) *Sedum obtusifolium* C.A. Meyer

B4 Ankara: Ankara, *Liston* (type of *S. listoniae*).

Flora of Turkey 5: 655 (1975) *Scorzonera tomentosa* L.

B4 Ankara: nr Ankara, *Liston* (type of *S. ancyritana*).

Flora of Turkey 6: 610 (1978) *Scrophularia cryptophila* Boiss. & Heldr.

A2(E) Istanbul: nr Istanbul, *Lady Lister* (if correctly localized).

Flora of Turkey 7: 487 (1982) *Acantholimon listoniae* Boiss. = *A. acerosum*

(Willd.) Boiss. var. *brachystachyum*.

Flora of Turkey 8: 97 (1984) *Asphodeline parviflora* Baker

A2 (E) Istanbul: Istanbul, *Lady Lister* (Lady Lister's localities are known to be unreliable).

Flora of Turkey 8: 537 (1984) *Dactylorhiza iberica* (Bieb. ex Willd.) Soó

A2(E) Istanbul: Istanbul, *Lady Lister*.

Flora of Turkey 9: 565 (1985) *Danthonia decumbens* (L.) DC.

A2(E/A) Istanbul: Constantinople (Istanbul), *Lady Lister* s.n.

Flora of Turkey 10: 89 (1988) *Chenopodium ambrosioides* L.

A2 (E/A) Istanbul: Constantinople (Istanbul), *Lady Liston!*

Flora Orientalis 2:247 (1872) *Astragalus listoniae* Boiss.

Hab. ad rivulos in parte superiore montis Elmadagh Anatoliae supra Angora (D<sup>a</sup> Liston

in Herb. Hook.!)

Flora Orientalis 2: 779 (1872) *Sedum listoniae* Visiani

circa Angora (Dom. Liston!).

Flora Orientalis 4: 838 (1879) *Acantholimon acerosum* (Willd.) Boiss. var.

*brachystachyum* Boiss. = *A. Listoniae* Boiss.

Hab. in Anatoliâ bor. (Dom<sup>na</sup> Liston!).

Flora Orientalis 5: 66 (1882) *Orchis angustifolia* M.B.

Byzantii (D<sup>a</sup> Liston).

Flora Orientalis 5: 321 (1882) *Asphodeline parviflora* Baker

Hab. Byzantii (Liston).

### Özet

*Scrophularia cryptophila* Boiss. et Heldr. (Scrophulariaceae), Kuzeybatı Türkiye’de, İstanbul yakınlarından bundan yaklaşık 200 yıl evvel toplanmış bir türdür. Çalışmamızda, türün Türkiye’deki yayılışı ve bu eski İstanbul örneğinin toplayıcısı hakkında bilgi verilmiştir.

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